

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

The specification has been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

Each of Claims 1 through 3 has been amended by incorporating the subject matter of Claim 4 therein. Claims 4, 5, 12 and 14 have been canceled. Claim 15 has been amended as supported in the specification at paragraphs [0038] and [0115]-[0017]. Finally, all multiple dependency has been eliminated.

New Claims 16-29 have been added. Claims 16-20 correspond to Claims 8-11 and 13; Claims 22-28 correspond to Claims 6-11 and 13; and Claims 21 and 29 are based on paragraphs [0038] and [0115]-[0117].

It is understood that the use of the transitional phrase “includes” and analogous forms, i.e., including, etc., is intended to have the same meaning as “comprises” and analogous forms.

No new matter is believed to have been added by the above amendment. Claims 1-3, 6-11, 13 and 15-29 are now pending in the application.

REMARKS

The rejection of Claims 1-3, 5, 8-11 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by US 7,030,553 (Winters et al), is respectfully traversed. All of the presently-pending claims now contain the limitations of Claim 4, not subject to this rejection. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 4, 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Winters et al, and further in view of US 2005/0140277 (Suzuki et al), is respectfully traversed. Suzuki et al has an earliest prior art date of December 22, 2004, based on its US filing date. The present application, having an international application filing date of February 18, 2005, claims priority of two Japanese applications, i.e., JP 2004-062774 filed March 5, 2004, and JP 2004-151625, filed May 21, 2004. **Submitted herewith** is a certified English translation of the latter application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to find that Applicants are entitled to the May 21, 2004 priority date under 35 U.S.C. § 119. Accordingly, Suzuki et al would be removed as prior art. That leaves only Winters et al.

The above-amended claims now require, *inter alia*, at least one crystallized inorganic layer. Winters et al neither discloses nor suggests crystallized inorganic layers. Nor does Winters et al disclose or suggest layers different in crystallinity, nor does Winters et al disclose etching using a difference in relative etching ease or relative crystallinity. Thus, Winters et al alone neither discloses nor suggests the presently-claimed invention. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

The rejections of Claims 12 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Winters et al, and further in view of US 6,464,898 (Tomoike et al), is respectfully traversed. Indeed, the rejection is now moot in view of the cancellation of these claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Winters et al, and further in view of US 6,462,470 (Ootsuki et al), is respectfully traversed. The disclosures and deficiencies of Winters et al have been discussed above. Ootsuki et al does not disclose or suggest a crystallized inorganic layer. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

The objection to the specification is now moot in view of the above-discussed amendment. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the presently-pending claims in this application are now in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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